

Nebraska Traffic Safety Facts 2005

Restraint Use



Safety belts are the single most effective means of reducing crash-related deaths. According to National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), safety belts are 45 to 60 percent effective in reducing crash deaths and 50 to 65 percent effective in reducing crash injuries.

In addition, using safety belts reduces the economic costs associated with motor vehicle crashes.

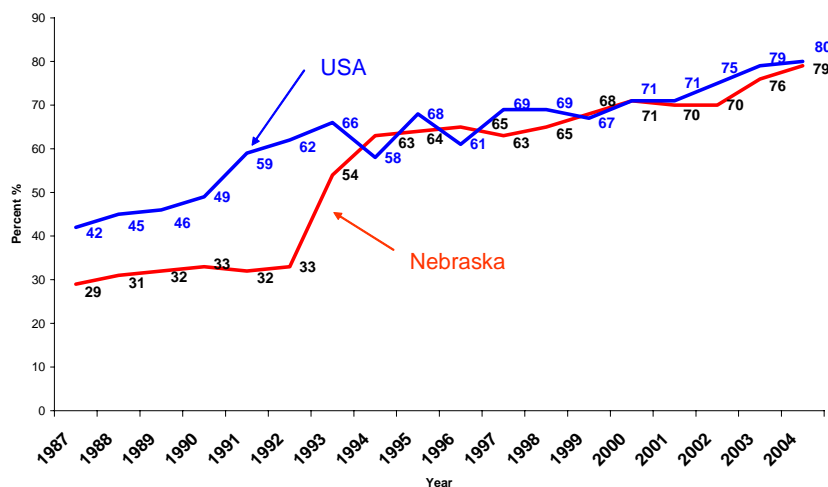
Nebraska has significantly improved safety belt use rates, from 29% in 1987 to 79% in 2004, and child restraint use from 56% in 1999 to 88% in 2004. Nebraska's objective by 2010 is to reach a 92% restraint use rate for persons 18 years of age or older and 100% for children under 5 years of age.

The Nebraska Office of Highway Safety reported that most individuals (73%) killed in crashes in 2003 were not using a restraint at the time of the crash.

Nebraska Crash Outcome Data Evaluation System (CODES) found that individuals who did not use a restraint were more than twice as likely to be injured and more than 12 times as likely to be killed in a crash than those who use restraints at the time of crash.

If all individuals involved in motor vehicle crashes had been using a restraint, an average of 158 lives could have been saved per year during 1996 to 1999, according to CODES.

Safety belt use rates, Nebraska vs. USA, 1987-2004



Source: Nebraska Office of Highway Safety - DMV

For more information, please call Nebraska Health and Human Services System, CODES program at (402) 471-0566.